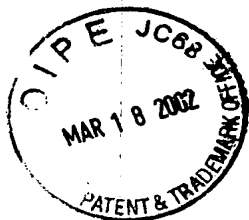


13/c



Attorney Docket No.: FL/128

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Banter et al.

Serial No.: 09/348,416

Filed July 7, 1999

For: Acoustic Protective Cover Assembly

Group Art Unit: 2643

Examiner: P. Dabney

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

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Darlene S. McGrath
Darlene S. McGrath

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

March 18, 2002
(date of mailing document)

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 18, 2001, in the parent application to the instant Continued Prosecution Application, please amend the above-identified patent application, as noted below. A clean version of the amended specification page and claims is attached with this response.

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MAR 22 2002

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Technology Center 2600

Page 9, line 1: after "membrane 20" insert -- exposed to the atmosphere and --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 7 and amend claims 1, 6, 11, 12 and 26 as follows.

1. (thrice amended) A sound-transmissive protective cover assembly, [comprising] consisting essentially of:

(a) [a] at least one microporous membrane [supported] having an inner unbonded region and a periphery bonded region; and

(b) at least one adhesive support system,

said at least one membrane being bonded [only] around its periphery [by] to said at least one adhesive support system such that at least a portion of said inner unbonded region of the membrane is exposed to the atmosphere and free to move in response to acoustic energy, said assembly having an instantaneous water entry pressure of at least one meter water column and an overall acoustic transmission loss of no more than 3 dB in the range of frequencies from 300 to 3000 Hz.

6. (twice amended) The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the assembly further comprises an acoustic gasket;

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